



Tempe Public Art



platFORM - Cycle 3

Lisa Bernal Brethour

Rain Song, 2015-2016

Ceramic tile and steel

Location: Hayden Flour Mill
119 S Mill Avenue

Photo by: Sean Deckert

The public art programs of Tempe, Scottsdale, and Chandler have partnered in platFORM, a multi-city, student sculpture initiative that provides currently-enrolled Arizona student-artists the opportunity to create artwork for temporary showcase in public places. platFORM aims to prepare emerging artists for future public art opportunities and to gain a wider exposure for their work.

Description: *Rain Song* is a square column that tells a continuous story of how the Arizona monsoon rains arrive only after the cicadas have begun their humming. The storms are conjured in the south during the white heat of the day, the winds blow in from the east, the north receives the rains, and the storms end in the west only to begin the cycle anew. *Rain Song* is constructed of 32 ceramic bas-relief tiles mounted on cement board and attached to a metal frame. Its inspiration is based on the artist's upbringing in southern Arizona on the edge of the natural Sonoran desert. Additional inspiration came from the resilient stone stelae from ancient times that mark territory and tell the story of the land.

Artist biography: Brethour completed her AA in Fine Arts from Mesa Community College in 2015. She also has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Arizona. She currently teaches ceramics at the City of Tempe Edna Vihel Center and participates in street painting festivals creating large temporary murals with pastels. For Brethour creating art is a means of creating a postcard or love letter to those around her and those who have passed, a visual expression of their connection. Her objective is to create additional public artworks and participatory artworks while furthering her education in sculptural and ceramic fine arts. The platFORM project provided the opportunity to Brethour to push her artwork in size and scope while expanding her knowledge of ceramics.

Funding: This project was funded through the City of Tempe Municipal Arts Fund with the support of the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission.